

# MICAH – CHAPTERS 1-3 – Coming Judgment on Israel; Mourning for Israel & Judah; Woe to Evildoers; Lying Prophets; Israel Restored; Wicked Rulers and Prophets!

## OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

**Micah name is “Who is like Jehovah”,** was contemporary with Isaiah, Amos and Hosea. Micah has been called “Isaiah in short hand”- a shorter, abridged edition! We need to hear it again. We should be more concerned with people being established in truth, rather than being impressed with new insights!

**Chapters 1-3 – Pronouncing Grievous Judgment;**  
**Chapters 4-5 – Promising Glorious Restoration;**  
**Chapters 6-7 – Proclaiming Gracious Reconciliation**

*Mic 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah- (2 Chron. 27-29), which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. The Coming Judgment on Israel – vs. 2-7*

*Mic 1:2 Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple.*

*Mic 1:3 For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth.*

*Mic 1:4 The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place.*

*Mic 1:5 All this is for the transgression of Jacob And for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?*

*Mic 1:6 "Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations.*

*Mic 1:7 All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot."*

**Mourning for Israel and Judah – vs. 8-16**

*Mic 1:8 Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing like the jackals And a mourning like the ostriches,*

*Mic 1:9 For her wounds are incurable. For it has come to Judah; It has come to the gate of My people— To Jerusalem.*

*Mic 1:10 Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all; In Beth Aphrah Roll yourself in the dust.*

**v. 1 Hezekiah** - The best son, of the worst father. How long Micah prophesied during his reign, we can but conjecture, possibly 'till the fourteenth year of Hezekiah. So this prophet may be supposed to have prophesied sixteen years in Jotham's time, as many under Ahaz, and fourteen under Hezekiah, in all forty - six years. And he survived the captivity of Israel ten years, which he lamented as well as foretold.

**v. 2 O earth** - This seems to be an appeal to the senseless creatures, or a summons to bring them in evidences for God against those kingdoms. Therein - Animate or inanimate creatures, all that are on the earth. Temple - Either from his temple at Jerusalem, or from heaven.

**v. 3** The Lord - He comes forth as a judge, to hear, determine, and punish. His place - Heaven, the place of his glorious throne. Come down - Shew, by the effects of his power, justice, and wisdom, that he is more eminently present there. Tread upon - Trample under foot all that is high, excellent, and matter of your glorying.

**v. 4** split - Or rent in sunder, broken up and slide away.

**v. 5** Jacob - The sons of Jacob, the ten tribes. What - Or, who is the spring, and cause of that overflowing transgression? Of Jacob - The kingdom of the ten tribes, the head of which was Samaria, where the kings had their residence, where they worshiped idols, and set an example to the rest of the Israelite kingdom. And what - Or, who is the cause of the high places, and the idolatry there practiced?

**v. 6** As a heap - As a heap of ruins. Of a vineyard - In planting vineyards, they dig up the earth, and cast it up in hillocks; so shall they make this city. Into the valley - The city was built on a high hill, and a deep valley beneath it. I will discover - I will raze the walls, fortresses, and public buildings of this city, to the very foundations.

**v. 7** all pay as a harlot - The rich gifts given for the honor and service of the idols by deceived idolaters. She - The kingdom of Samaria. It - Their wealth, or the rich presents made to their idols. Of an harlot - As harlots get rich gifts of their lovers.

**v. 8** Therefore - Because of those dreadful slaughters in Israel and Samaria. And naked - As one that in bitterness of passion hath cast off his upper garment. Jackals, which haunt desolate places, and make a great and hideous noise by night.

**v. 9** Her wound - The wounds of Samaria, her own sins, and God's just displeasure. There comes a place of no return. The Proverbs speaks of, “He that hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed”, and that without remedy. No return, no remedy. Here, the wound is incurable.

**v. 10** T Tell it not - Lest the Philistines triumph. Weep not at all - Make no public weeping. Aphrah - This was farther from the Philistines. Roll thyself - Express thy sorrow. Aphrah means dust, and so, “In dust town, roll thyself in the dust”. **Cf. 2 Sam. 1:20**

**Micah was a real man!** Probably prophesied this message of judgment, but also the mercy of God, about 740 B.C.. His ministry lasted about 40 years. It was warring times militarily between Israel and Judah. It was a bloody time. Also they were wavering spiritually. He is the only prophet to be sent to both the North and the South! His heart must have been broken! He would see the Assyrians come and totally destroy the ten northern tribes, known as Israel. **As opposed to Jonah, who did not want to carry the message of God's mercy, Micah had a great heart for God's mercy, especially toward the poor!**

Isaiah, a contemporary of Micah, was especially close to him. In fact, Micah has been called “Isaiah in shorthand” because much of what is written in Isaiah is also recorded almost verbatim in Micah. A common source, the Holy Spirit, apparently gave the same message to both! **2Pe 1:12** *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*

**Vs. 1-7** The Lord says that because of the sin of Samaria and Jerusalem, when I come, says the Lord, mountains will melt; valleys will be divided in two and judgment will flow like water over a waterfall. They sin was a mixture of worshipping the Lord and of idolatry. They would offer sacrifices to the Lord in the morning and worship idols in the groves in the evenings – like our prayer breakfasts in the Washington D.C. in the mornings and cocktail parties in the evening. The Lord doesn't was us halting between two viewpoints! He will be judging!

**v. 8** Prophecies should not just titillate us intellectually, but they should break us emotionally and bring us to prayer! Micah was godly man. When he heard about judgment, he wailed; he wept; he was broken. May the Lord begin to work that kind of heart into us!

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*Mic 1:11 Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of Shaphir; The inhabitant of Zaanan does not go out. Beth Ezel mourns; Its place to stand is taken away from you.*  
*Mic 1:12 For the inhabitant of Maroth pined for good, But disaster came down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.*  
*Mic 1:13 O inhabitant of Lachish, Harness the chariot to the swift steeds (She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion), For the transgressions of Israel were found in you.*  
*Mic 1:14 Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth Gath; The houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.*  
*Mic 1:15 I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah; The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.*  
*Mic 1:16 Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, Because of your precious children; Enlarge your baldness like an eagle, For they shall go from you into captivity.*

### Woe to Evildoers – vs. 1-5

*Mic 2:1 Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand.*  
*Mic 2:2 They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.*  
*Mic 2:3 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time.*  
*Mic 2:4 In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.' "*  
*Mic 2:5 Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.*

Maroth waited anxiously for good: but evil came from the Lord unto the gate of Jerusalem (1:11-12).

**v. 11** *Saphir* means "beauty-town." Believe me, the inhabitants passed away and also the town itself so that the site of it is absolutely unknown. Beauty-town would be no longer beautiful—"having thy shame naked." "*Zaanan* means "march-town." March-town didn't march. The site of this town is also unknown to us. In [beauty town] *Saphir* [means beauty]

**v. 12** "The inhabitant of Maroth waited carefully [anxiously] for good." The name *Maroth* means "bitterness." They waited for a good report, for good news, but it was a bitter report—"evil came down from the LORD unto the age of Jerusalem." The Assyrians were marching to the very walls of Jerusalem.

**v. 13** *Lachish* was "Horse-town." There were great stables of horses there. It is a city southwest of Jerusalem, over near the Philistine country, the place where idolatry was first introduced into the southern kingdom of Judah. Apparently Lachish was the link of idolatry between Israel and Judah, the first city .

**v. 14** "Moresheth-gath" was the hometown of Micah; it was in the southern kingdom of Judah. "The houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel." *Achzib* means "lie-town." Lie-town, as did all these other towns, lived up to its name. The inhabitants were given over to lies. The name *Achzib* is the Hebrew word for a "winter brook" or a "lie."

**v. 15** An heir - The Assyrian, who in the right of conquest shall possess thee. Mareshah - A town of the Philistines. Adullam - Perhaps this city was considerable enough at that time, to be the glory of Israel.

**v. 16** yourself - O Judea and Israel, cut off your hair. Shave what thou canst not tear off. For thy children - For the loss of them, some being slain, others starved, or swept away with pestilence, and the residue carried captive. As the eagle - One species of which is entirely bald. Judgment is coming!

**v. 1** who devise iniquity - Contrive and frame mischief. Work out evil - Contrive how to work it. It is in the power - Because they can; without regarding right or wrong.

**v. 2** **They were using people and loving things.** That's trouble! However, we should be loving people and using things! Scheming to take away land.

**v. 3** against this family - God will devise evil against their family, as they devised evil against the family of their neighbors. Haughtily - You have made others hang the head; so shall you now. Is evil - Full of miseries on the whole family of Jacob.

**v. 4** Great confusion was coming and "bitter lamentation"—a very unusual expression in the Hebrew language. It probably would not be possible to translate into English exactly what Micah was saying. There was no hope at all—"We are utterly destroyed."

**v. 5** you will have no one - None that shall ever return to this land, to see it allotted by line and given them to possess it. In the congregation - They shall no more be the congregation of the Lord, nor their children after them. I won't listen to you when the Assyrians come.

Vs. 11-12 Sometimes called a funeral for a ruined kingdom, Micah lists, some to the cities that fell to Sennacherib's Assyrian army.

**Chap. 2: v 1** - They were doing whatever they could to get ahead. Contrast that with David who encourages us to mediate on the word day and night! - **Cf. Ps. 63:5-6** *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. [6] I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Ps. 119:148*

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### Lying Prophets – vs. 6-11

*Mic 2:6 "Do not prattle (babble)," you say to those who prophesy. So they shall not prophesy to you; They shall not return insult for insult.*

*Mic 2:7 You who are named the house of Jacob: "Is the Spirit of the LORD restricted? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good To him who walks uprightly?"*

*Mic 2:8 "Lately My people have risen up as an enemy— You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned from war.*

*Mic 2:9 The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever.*

*Mic 2:10 "Arise and depart, For this is not your rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction.*

*Mic 2:11 If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, 'I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,' Even he would be the prattler of this people.*

### Israel Restored – vs. 12-13

*Mic 2:12 "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.*

*Mic 2:13 The one who breaks open will come up before them; They will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it; Their king will pass before them, With the LORD at their head."*

### Wicked Rulers and Prophets – vs. 1-12

*Mic 3:1 And I said: "Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice?"*

*Mic 3:2 You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones;*

*Mic 3:3 Who also eat the flesh of My people, Flay their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them in pieces Like meat for the pot, Like flesh in the caldron."*

**vs. 6-7** This was a time when God cut off the flow of the spirit of prophecy. Why? Because the people wouldn't hear it, and there came a famine of the Word of God. "Are these His doings?" God has told them that He, too, is plotting judgment—that is, what *they* call evil, because it is going to be a judgment against them. "Do not My words do good to him who walks uprightly?" Though the message is harsh, God's people will accept it, and they will obey it. **Cf. Jer. 5:14**

**v. 8** God is saying that, although they are His people, they have become His enemies, and one of the evidences of this is the way they treat the poor. God always insists upon justice for the poor. His charge is: "You pull off the robe with the garment from those." A man's robe was what he slept in. In other words, they would take a man's bed out from under him. That was how far they were willing to go to rob the poor. They were stealing from the poor! **v. 9** The women - The widows. Of my people - Of Israelites, not strangers, that were by peculiar provision from God's law, to be tenderly dealt with, **Exo 22:22**. Cast out - You have turned out of their old habitations. From their children - You have turned their children out of their houses, and estates, which were secured by the law of God from any sale beyond the jubilee; yet you have confiscated them forever. My glory forever - Which was the glory of my bounty to them.

**v. 10** Arise and depart - You inhabitants of Israel, prepare for your departure out of this land. Your rest - Though it was given this people for a rest under God's wing; yet it was on condition of continued obedience. Polluted - With many, and great, and old sins. Utter destruction - It shall spew you out.

**v. 11** should walk - If a man pretend to have the spirit of prophesy. And speak a lie - You shall have plenty of days, and may eat, drink, and be merry. He would be the prattler of this people - he shall even be the prophet - **Such they like and choose.**

**v. 12** Them - All the remnant. As the sheep - In great numbers. Their fold - Their own fold, where they are safe. The multitude of men - This was fulfilled in part, when the Jews returned out of Babylon, but more fully when Christ by his gospel gathered together in one, all the children of God that were scattered abroad.

**v. 13** "The one who breaks open will come up before them." The "breaker" is the one who clears the way, removes the obstacles, and leads them. I believe **this refers to their entering the millennial Kingdom when the Lord Jesus Christ will be the one to lead them, as He will have returned to the earth at that time.**

**v. 1** Is it not for you - Ought not you to understand, and conform to, the just laws of your God. You princes, magistrates, and ruling officers, ought of all men to know and do right.

**v. 2** The good - You who hate not only to do good, but the good which is done, and those that do it. The evil - Choose, and delight in, both evil works and evil workers. Who strip the skin - You who instead of shearing the fleece, would pluck off the skin and flesh. Ignoring the poor-treating them like meat

**v. 8** God cares greatly about the state of the impoverished! You're ripping them off. You're getting richer at the expense of the people!

**v. 9** You have cast the women and the children out of their houses!

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*Mic 3:4 Then they will cry to the LORD, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds.*

*Mic 3:5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who make my people stray; Who chant "Peace" While they chew with their teeth, But who prepare war against him Who puts nothing into their mouths:*

*Mic 3:6 "Therefore you shall have night without vision, And you shall have darkness without divination; The sun shall go down on the prophets, And the day shall be dark for them.*

*Mic 3:7 So the seers shall be ashamed, And the diviners abashed; Indeed they shall all cover their lips; For there is no answer from God."*

*Mic 3:8 But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, And of justice and might, To declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin.*

*Mic 3:9 Now hear this, You heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And pervert all equity,*

*Mic 3:10 Who build up Zion with bloodshed And Jerusalem with iniquity:*

*Mic 3:11 Her heads judge for a bribe, Her priests teach for pay, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD, and say, "Is not the LORD among us? No harm can come upon us."*

*Mic 3:12 Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.*

**v. 3.** The flesh - Ye who devour the goods, and livelihood of your brethren. Break their bones - An allusion to wolves, bears, or lions, which devour the flesh, and break the bones of the defenseless lambs. When they cry, the Lord says He won't listen to them!

**v. 4** Then - When these miseries come upon them.

**v. 5** they chew - When they are furnished with gifts, and well fed. Prepare war - They do them all the mischief they can.

**v. 6** Night - Heavy calamities. Without vision - You shall no more pretend to have a vision, or dare to foretell anything. the sun - The hand of God shall be against them, making their sorrows the more dreadful, as darkness by the sun going down at noon.

**v. 7** The seers (the prophets) - So called by the deceived people. Cover their lips - Mourners did thus, Eze\_24:17, Eze\_24:22. So these shall mourn and pine in their shame. No answer - Because the answer they had formerly, pretended to be from God, now appears not to have been from him.

**v. 8** Power - Courage, and vivacity. Of judgment - To discern times and seasons, right from wrong. Might - Resolution.

**v. 9** In this final division, Micah turns specifically to Jerusalem. Heretofore he has been speaking to the northern kingdom of Israel; but now he bundles together the prophets, the princes, and the priests of the southern kingdom, and he pronounces judgment upon all of them. Now hear this - Then he details their sins.

**v. 10** They - The heads and great ones enlarge, beautify, and fortify, the house in Zion, particularly the temple and the royal palace. Bloodshed - With wealth, which they made themselves masters of by violence, taking away the life of the owners.

**v. 11** Lean - Pretend to trust in him. Among us - As our God and our shield.

**v. 12** because of you - Because of your sins. Zion - The mountain, on which the temple stood. This is that passage, which is quoted, Jer\_26:18, which Hezekiah and his princes took well: yea, they repented and so the execution of it did not come in their days.

**v. 7** Here **the prophets, too, are being indicted.** Give me a piece of meat and I'll tell you whatever you want to hear! Divining for money!

**v. 11** Finally, **the priests are indicted!** With justice, prophecy and religion all governed by money, the princes, prophets and priests of Israel had become financially rich but spiritually bankrupt. Consequently, the Lord was justified in plowing Zion as a field, in bring Jerusalem to ruin, in judging His people.

Pope Leo the tenth, said how profitable is this myth of Jesus Christ.

According to Cornelius a Lapide, Thomas Aquinas once called on Pope Innocent II when the latter was counting out a large sum of money. "You see, Thomas," said the Pope, "the church can no longer say, 'Silver and gold have I none.'" "True, holy father," was the reply; **"neither can she now say, 'Rise and walk.'"**

### **GRACE GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN**

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.*

#### ○ **Refrain:**

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!*

*Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?*



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According to an Assyrian clay tablet, Sennacherib conquered 46 cities in Judea, including Lachish.

Micah, the prophet at these tragic times, warned Judah that the fate of Lachish was a result of their sins (*Micah 1 13*): "O thou inhabitant of Lachish, bind the chariot to the swift beast: she is the beginning of the sin to the daughter of Zion: for the transgressions of Israel were found in thee".

God spared Jerusalem from destruction and the Assyrians retreated (*2 Chronicles 31 21-22*): "And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword. Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side". The Assyrians retreated (*2 Kings 19 36*): "So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh".